The true Relation and

Deſcription of 2. moſt ſtrange and true Remarkable Sea-Fights againſt *the Turkes.*

The one was on the 14. of *April* laſt, 1636. in a Ship called the *Bleſſing*, of Stone-houſe in the Pariſh of *Plimmouth*, the Maſters name being *Richard Andrew*, of *Stoken Tenew*, betwixt *Dartmouth* and *Exeter.*

The other Sea-Fight being the 6. of *November*, 1636. in a Ship called the *Iohn of Plimmouth*, of the burden of 120. Tonnes, the Maſters name being *William Chappell* of *Cockerton*, in the County of *Devonſhire.*



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The true Relation and Deſcription of two moſt ſtrange and true Remarkable Sea-fights againſt the Turks: the one was on the 14. *of April laſt,* 1636. *in a Ship called the* Bleſſing *of Stone-houſe in the Pariſh of* Plimmouth, *the Maſters name being* Richard Andrew *of* Stoken Tenew, *betwixt* Dartmouth *and* Exeter.

The other Sea-fight being the 6. *of November,* 1636. *in a Shippe called the* Iohn *of* Plimmouth, *of the burden of* 120. *Tonnes, the Maſters name being* William Chappell *of* Cockerton *in the County of* Devonſhire.

AS the Ocean Sea is alwayes heaving and tolſing, ebbing and flowing, whether it bee calme or ſtormy, in continuall motion and agitation: So the whole life of man is a confuſed labyrinth of

variable accidents, a mixture of perplexities, blended with ſome ſhaddowes of happineſſe, innumerable caſualties (like wave after wave) chaſing and purſuing him from the Wombe to the Tombe, from his Birth to his Buriall, from his Cradle to his Grave.

Theſe following Lines will a little demonſtrate the danger and deliverance, the perill and protection, mans miſery and Gods mercie, in preſerving men, and pulling them out of the jawes of Death and deſtruction.

The foureteenth of Aprill 1636. one Maſter *Richard Andrew* ſet ſayle out of the Harbour of *Plimmouth*, in a ſmall ſhip of the burthen of foureſcore tunnes, with ſix ſmall peeces of Ordnance, (being Faulcons belonging to one Maſter *Robert Merrene* of *Stone-houſe*) with thirty ſix perſons aboord in their Company, departed out of the Harbour the day aforeſaid, (being bound for *Newfoundland*.)

There were with them in their company three ſmall Ships or Barkes, of no force or ſtrength, either to defend themſelves, or offend an enemie, for they had not all three of them ſo much as one Musket: thus bea-

ring

ring and ſteering our courſe for our voyage after a day and a nights ſayling, ſome foure leagues off from the *Lizzard*, (which is a high Promontory or point of land in *Cornwall.*) The wind being at North, the Ship had not ſayled two houres, but the *Bleſsing* ſaw a great Ship put off from the *Lizzard* to ſea-ward, ſteering their courſe directly towards them, ſtanding roome with them with all their ſayles abroad, and a *Holland* Colours out, which after they had chaſed us two houres, they came up with us within ſhot, and preſently they tooke in their counterfeited *Holland* Colours, and bravingly advanced and ſpred the Turkes Colours, without delay made a ſhot at the *Bleſsing*, commanding them to yeeld, and ſtrike their ſayles, ſaying, ſtrike your ſayles you dogges: then the Turks brought their Sprit-ſayle, long-ſhips, and boorded them, when twelve Turkes entred them moſt furiouſly, and their Ship ſheered off from them againe, (they ſuppoſing that thoſe twelve of their companions had beene ſufficient to have taken and ſurprized the *Bleſſing*,) but the Maſter and his Company (by Gods aſſiſtance) ſo behaved themſelves like men, that they cleared their Ship of

theſe

theſe twelve, for they kill'd tenne of them, the other two made ſhift to get to the fore-top maſt-head, where they made ſignes to their Ship, that they ſhould with ſpeed lay them aboord againe, which they preſently did, but after a terrible ſhort bickering, the Turkes were forced off againe, (with what loſſe is not certainely knowne,) but the Engliſh Shippe had two men ſlaine outright, and foure men hurt; but the enemie was ſo enraged, that he vowing revenge, came with a freſh charge upon them the third time, and boorded them, moſt furiouſly tearing them with their Ordnance, and with a chaine-ſhot carryed away their Ships Beake-head, and Bowſprit, entring ſome eight or tenne men more, which men (with their fauchions and ſhort ſwords) cut downe all the ſayles of the Engliſh Ship, and began to hew up their decks, but their miſchiefe was ſpeedily prevented, by giving fire to a peece of Ordnance (a Saker) which was loaden with ſmall ſtones and pieces of iron, and turned into the Ship, the Gunner diſcharged it amongſt the Turkes, whereby the Ship was once more cleared of their enemies, who finding their entertainement more hot

hot then they expected fell off againe.

But in their putting off, they fetcht a compaſſe, and made aboord, got to the windward of the Engliſh Ship, ſetting up all their ſayles, came (with a full gale) ſtemlong running upon them, running them aboord in the mid-ſhips, with an intention to have borne them downe, or over-runne and ſunke them: but God in his mercy defended them from that imminent danger, which the enemie perceiving, they preſently began to grapple together, where they lay ſix houres together tugging, and with all extremity doing their beſt and worſt of each ſide to offend each other, and to defend themſelves; the Turkes ſtill preſſing on the Chriſtians with all their ſayles, in hope to overwhelme them (as is aforeſaid,) till at the laſt, (the enemie having loſt many of his men, and thoſe that remained were ſome hurt, and the reſt weary and tyred,) ſeeing they could not prevaile by force and fury upon the overmuch weakened Chriſtians, they began to parly with them, and offred them good quarter, with faire tearmes of a reaſonable compoſition, ſaying, they would land them all ſafe in *Corn-*

 wall,

wall if they would yeeld and leave their Ship to them, and that they ſhould not have ſo much as a haire of their heads hurt, if they would give over to reſiſt them, but if they would be ſo mad as wilfully to perſiſt in a deſperate courſe, where they ſaw no hope of reliefe or deliverance, that then they muſt expect no other but ſuddaine ruine and deſtruction of lives, Ship and goods, with all the mercileſſe extremity of a wrathfull and juſt incenſed enemie.

Maſter Andrewes hearing the faire offers of the Turkes, could neither affoord to believe or truſt them; but putting his confidence wholy in God, hee asked his Companies reſolution, who (with him) were all of one Chriſtian and worthy mind, to ſtand it out to the laſt and worſt of danger, and to either ſinke or burne their Ship, (and ſo die free-men) rather then to be at the devotion and mercy of their perfidious and miſcreant enemies; which deſperate anſwer was no ſooner delivered backe to the Turkes, who perceiving that violence or entreaty could not prevaile, they called for fire-workes, and ſet the Ship on fire in ſundry places, and with all

all the ſpeed they could ſheered off from her, the poore *Bleſſing*, being incompaſt round with moſt furious flames, in which extremitie, the moſt part of their ſayles and tackling was burnt, but the Maſter and Company uſing all the beſt endeavours, that men in ſuch a perillous exigent could doe, by the good aſſiſtance of God they quenched the fire; but the Turkes ſuppoſing them to be neere ſinking, at their going off, made a ſhot at them with a peece of Ordnance which killed two of our men; and ſo they left off till the next morning being the ſixteenth of Aprill, when in the meane ſpace Maſter *Andrewes* had beene toyling all the night in giving his ſlaine men ſuch Seaburiall as time and place would permit, in cauſing his wounded men to be carefully dreſt, and in cheriſhing thoſe that remained unhurt, with ſuch comfortable refreſhments as his veſſell could afford, and withall to amend the breaches and hurts which the enemies Ordnance, and the fire had made in his Ship, ſayls and cordage, the harmes being many, and the repairings very few, and unable to make halfe ſo great damages good againe.

But when the Turkes perceived them againe in the morning aforeſaid, they out with all their ſayles, and gave chace to them againe, but having ſmall hope to fetch them up, for they ſtood toward the ſhore, being glad to be out of the danger of ſo implacable and cruell an enemie, and willing to bring their broken Ship into ſome good harbour amongſt our friends and Countrymen.

The Turkes conceiving no hope to recover the *Bleſſing*, gave over their chace, and with all the ſpeed they could they chaſed two other ſmall ſhippes; aſſuring themſelves that they ſhould have an eaſier buſineſſe, or a ſlighter match to cope with both them than they had with that one they dealt withall the day before; in which expectation they were not deceived, for within the ſpace of two houres and a halfe, they came up with one of them, and ſhot three pieces of Ordnance at them who were able to make no reſiſtance, whereupon the Turks layd them aboord and tooke them, preſently putting their own men into the ſmall Shippe, which they had no ſooner man'd, but they gave chaſe to the other, and in ſhort time laid her aboard and tooke her alſo,

alſo, and man'd her as he did the other, and then they gave chaſe to two other Shippes, which were to leeward of them, and were come ſomewhat neere unto them, but by reaſon of the diſtance betwixt the Turkes and the Ship, *Bleſſing*, that Maſter *Andrewes* was in, and the duskineſſe of the weather, they cannot tell whether thoſe laſt two Shippes were taken or not : Maſter *Andrew* was foure times boorded by the Turks, and (as you have heard related) fired by them : yet after a long and perillous fight, having foure men kill'd out-right, and two ſo wounded that they dyed ſhortly after, and ſix men ſorely hurt; yet by the mercy of God the Ship came home, and had her Maſts, Sayles, and breaches repaired, and happily proceeded, and ſet forth for her intended Voyage for *Newfoundland*. And all this (or the ſumme, pith, and truth of all this) was delivered to men of Worth and Authority, by the Oath and Teſtimony of *Richard Andrew* Maſter of the Ship named the *Bleſſing* aforeſaid.

FINIS.

FINIS.

A brave and dangerous Sea-Fight, which was fought the 6. of November, 1636. in a Ship called the Iohn of Plimmouth, *of the burden of 120. Tonnes, the Masters name being* William Chappell *of* Cockerton, *in the County of Devonshire.*

THis second Relation of this most dangerous Sea-fight, and happy deliverance is no lesse remarkable than any that hath been formerly related, either in M. *Hackluits* Voyages, or any others whatsoever or whomsoever have written or can write or speake of Sea-faring affaires: For God being the same God that he ever was, is, and shall be, hath ordained that all those that trust in him, and valiantly fight under his Banner, shall in the Name and Faith of *Iesus Christ* be victorious, either in his service here on Earth, against all oppositions, or else an immortall Crown of glory is assured to them hereafter.

But

But to the purpoſe, *William Chappell*, (a man well knowne, and a good Sea-man) with a Ship called the *Iohn* of *Plimmouth*, of the burthen aforeſaid, with twenty three men, and five peeces of Ordnance, and one Murtherer, and ten Muskets, having beene in a fiſhing voyage at *Newfoundland*, and fraighted from thence, weighed Anker and ſet ſayles for *Nants*, (a Towne in *Bretagne* a Province in *France*, being in the Latitude of 47. degrees and 30. minutes, and off from the land 35. leagues, Eaſt and by North the *Seames*) about ſeven of the clock in the morning, I perceived that purſuite and chaſe was made after me by a Turkiſh Man-of-warre, of a great Bulke, but what her burthen was I cannot rightly tell, yet this is certaine, that he had 22. peeces of iron Ordnance, and 4. peeces of braſſe Ordnance, and as neere as I could gueſſe, the number of two hundred men; I ſuſpecting what he was, did preſently command all my Company to ſoyne with me in prayer, which being done, we prepared our ſelves, with our Ship and our few Gunnes, to ſtand upon our defence and guard, the time being ſo ſhort, that we had not above halfe an houres reſpite, but he came up with us, and ſhot at us; I being then

then upon the Poope hayle him, (or call'd to him) demanding what he was, but inſtead of making me an anſwer, the Turkes burſt all out into a laughter at me, and hotly diſcharged all his Ordnance on one ſide twice, which was 26. ſhots, but I thanke God, he neither hurt or killd any one of my men; then he made towards me, and laid me aboord, uſing all his force, and with his great ſhot made great breaches in my Ship, and by hard hap killed my Gunner, and one man more, and in this bloody bickering he ſhot away my maine maſt, and tore me exceeding much, in the meane time we were not idle, but with ſuch poore force as wee had made reſiſtance as wee could, for our Gunnes and Murtherer lay ſo neceſſary for us in our Fore-caſtle, and ſteerage or quarter, that wee powred our ſhot ſo thicke amongſt his men, that hee was faine with haſte to leave us.

But not minding to take his laſt leave of us as yet, he came up in my ſterne, where I had no force to reſiſt him, hee having foure peeces right foreward on, tooke as much time as he thoght fit for his beſt advantage, (for he would alwayes play or plye where was leſt defence) and ſo the third time hee

layd me aboord once more, hurt me foure men, and tore my Ship very much, and withall ſet me on fire, and then fell off from me about halfe a cables length, then I was forced with the few weake and wearyed men that I had left me, to ſling them with ropes over-boord to quench out the fire, when the ſmall ſhot came very thicke about us from the Turkes on each ſide of us; yet I thanke God, they hurt not any one of us.

The fire being quenched, he made up to me againe, and layd me aboord the fourth time, and hurt three more of my men very much, and withall tore me ſo much, that I had three foot and a halfe of water in the hold of my Ship, and ſhot away all my maſts and ſayles, except my fore-maſt and fore-top-maſt, likewiſe he ſhot away one of my Pumps, whileſt with much labour of my men at one Pumpe which was left, wee were ſcarce able to keep the water at a ſtay, but that it would riſe more and more in our hold. Then (by a happy ſhot which wee made at the Turks) his Bowſprit was ſtrook off, and his Beak-head and halfe his ſtemme was alſo gone in the fight, ſo that hee was forced to beare up from us halfe an houre or more,

more, and then he hoyſt his Boat out of his Ship, and came aboord of me with a Flag of truce, and asked me of whence my ſhip was; I anſwered him of *Briſtow*, then he demanded from whence I came, I ſaid out of *Ireland*, he ſaid that he knew I came from *Newfoundland*, I reply'd that I would not give him account of whence I was, or whence I came, or whether I was bound; and then I demanded of him of whence he was, and he (bravingly) return'd me anſwer, that he was of *Argiere*; I then demanded of him how farre off he thought we were off from the *Seames*, (a place ſo called) he told me that he knew not, for he had ſeene no land ſince firſt hee ſet ſayle out of the Harbour or Haven of *Argiere*.

Then he began to fall into ſome other termes with me, and asked me if I would yeeld, proteſting and promiſing me that I ſhould have good quarter, and withall that he would give me my freedome; I anſwered him, that for his good quarter I did not need it, nor would I thank him for it; and for my freedome, it was yet mine own without being beholding to him for it, and that as long as my Ship would ſwim I would be free. Then he ſaid, is that thine anſwer, and I re-

pli'd he ſhould get no other anſwer of me, and ſo goe thy wayes and tell them that ſent thee.

Whereupon he went away with his Boat towards his Ship and threatned me either to ſinke or burne me, to whom I anſwered, that I cared not for him, and bad him doe his beſt and worſt, ſo he went from me, and for all his brags never troubled me more. Thus did the fight continue from 7. of the clocke in the morning till 4. at night, or afternoon (being nine houres) he having laid me five times aboord, and tore me and fired me as is related, in which Fight I had onely my Gunner kill'd and one man more, and foure men hurt, giving God thankes that wee ſcap'd ſo, having not any Sayle left mee unburnt and ſpoyl'd, but my fore-Top-Sayle.

The night being come, and we happily eaſed of a cruell foe, we all in generall ſet our Ship in as good faſhion as we could, for preparation for a new fight in the morning, but when the day was come, and we expected an enemy, we thankt God, that to our great joy and comfort) we could not ſee him; then with a South South-weſt gale we were forced to goe before the wind, and

the 27. of *September* we came in ſight of the *Lizzard*. What men were kill'd on the enemies ſide wee know not certaine, but eight of them were ſlaine aboord of our Shippe, and as wee ſuppoſe about thirtie of them were kill'd and hurt aboord their owne Shippe: All which I *William Chappell* doe affirme to bee true, as I ſhall anſwer the contrary before God, who was our onely helper and deliverer, and to him alone be all deliverance and victory aſcribed, with all humble and poſſible praiſe and thankſgiving.

Since which time the Maſter (M. *Chappell*) is gone out againe Maſter of a Ship, from *Plimmouth* for *Newfoundland*.

In the Deſcriptions of theſe two perillous Sea-Fights, may be perceived manifeſtly what extraordinary and unexpected bleſſings God will give to good and honeſt reſolutions and endeavours, for in the capacity and underſtanding of man it could not be conceived that two ſuch weake Ships, ſo many degrees inferiour in ſtrength of Bulk, Munition, Ordnance, and numbers of men, ſhould both endure to bee ſo oftentimes boorded by their cruell enemies, and abide ſo many fierce aſſaults and bickerings,

to have almoſt all their Maſts ſhot away, and their Sayles, their Shippes fired, and exceedingly torne and ſhattered, and yet for all theſe extremities to eſcape, it can and muſt bee admired, and the Mercie, Providence, and Protection of God only to be praiſed and magnified.

FINIS.